THE EXAMINER.

No. 272 SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1813.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT

No. 263.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

In the articles which we may have occasion to write on this subject, it is our intention, agreeably to the plan we pursued last Sunday, first to record such *facts* as may have taken place up to the moment, and then to give the observations suggested by them. The documents that are every day escaping through the medium of the press, and that relate to the previous state of the business, we avoid noticing at present, in case the rumour of *another* enquiry should be verified, when we should have occasion to review them particularly: but as the matter now stands, they supply us with no *facts* beyond the existence of those individual opinions,—those results of half-investigation,—which the successive Cabinets put forth, and with the amount of which the public are already acquainted. One statement, or rather contradiction of a statement, connected with them, we would willingly have suppressed, hoping that if any publication of the evidence should become necessary, it would appear at once in it's entire and proper form, and come under the eye of such readers only as would have notice of what they were going to peruse; but as it's suppression, now that it has transpired in other papers, might appear differently to different persons according to the constructions put upon it's import, we have given it a place. We do not wish to make more of it than necessary, or to excite the imaginations of our readers; neither do we regret the circumstance out of any unseasonable or ridiculous prudery, for every minor consideration, if circumstances demand, must give way to the justification of an injured woman situated as the PRINCESS of WALES is;—all that we wish is, that those Editors who affect to be so very delicate in their ideas of enquiry, would be a little so in reality, and not be making these premature and piecemeal disclosures, merely to keep pace with the curiosity excited by other papers.

To the facts already recorded then, we have little to add this week. We concluded our first sketch of them with the notice that was about to be taken of the subject by the House of Commons; and in order to keep to our plan, we have only to repeat from another part of last Sunday's Paper, that a conversation accordingly took place in that Assembly without any practical result, the Members appearing to be all agreed respecting the innocence of the PRINCESS, and to think that she must of necessity experience a change of treatment. This seems also to be the universal impression; and here again the business remains suspended. The PRINCESS continues to suffer without a known reason; the PRINCE continues to keep her in suffering without giving one; every body thinks he must cease to do so; and here there is a pause, full of interest and expectation. All the eyes of the Nation are turned upon his Royal Highness to see how he will act;—there is a general movement of curiosity towards him,—an anxious gesture,—an eager and universal attitude, with lifted fingers and a listening face:—it seems to say, "We have our doubts,—we have our alarms,—but pray let us think as well of you as we can, for a Mother's sake, for a whole Country's sake, for your own sake,—for God's sake."

While the Country is under the influence of this sensation, and while its Rulers are evidently at a loss in beholding it,—Levees hurried over, Ministers dodging at all corners with their former opinions, and Courtiers shrinking and whispering about on tip-toes, as if afraid to come into contact with some mighty soreness,—let us get with the reader once more into our old chimney-corner of reasonableness and common sense, and consider in another point of view what must be the general impression with regard to the two parties concerned, abstracted from the rest of the bustle, and presenting themselves to our minds, like any two other persons, solely as they are made up of acknowledged circumstances.

And first for the Lady.—We left the PRINCESS last Sunday to be considered by our Readers as a Mother suffering without a known reason; she is still to be considered as such, but with this additional circumstance furnished by the only proceeding that has since taken place,—that she is suffering with a still more decided belief on the part of principled men that there is really *no* reason to be *made known*. This additional circumstance in her Royal Highness's favour has been procured for her by the conduct of Ministers, by the unanimous feeling of the House of Commons respecting her situation, by her own call for enquiry, and that strength of maternal affection which, on the prospect of losing her daughter's society altogether, induced her to forego every other feeling for the sake of regaining it. These are traits of character calculated to excite a very warm interest for her Royal Highness in the hearts of the English people, and the consequence has been that they do feel a most warm interest in her cause, which, till it be proved otherwise, they cannot but regard as the cause of unprotected womanhood and offended nature. At the same time,—to conceal nothing of those features under which her Royal Highness is presenting herself to our minds,—it is impossible not to discern in that letter of her's to Lord LIVERPOOL a vehemence and a liability to impulse, which people would rather not have witnessed. The occasion, it is true, was one, of all others, on which such a vehemence

was excusable; and it is even refreshing to see a natural and domestic sense of what is right gushing out with indignation in such a quarter, and frightening out of their wits the cold-blooded slaves of a court-soil; but the objects, though Ministers, were somewhat too low for such an attack. Creatures, who can first pay court to a woman and pronounce her not only guiltless but worthy of all accustomed honour and tenderness,—who can then on a change of interests agree not to pay her a visit, can afterwards wait upon her with hostile and humiliating messages, then review their former favourable opinion to try if they cannot find fault with it, and lastly can advise a furtherance of those very mortifications against which they formerly protested,—what can such creatures be worth? Really they are too pitiable to make one's passion get up against them;—one is inclined to treat them like little shuffling boys, who have been detected in some skulking meanness, and to dismiss them with a little movement of disdain—a back-handed pat on the cheek. A Princess, who condescends to treat such miserable beings with any thing more than a quiet contempt, or a shudder of avoidance, debases her just indignation into an unseemly anger.—Vehemence however on such an occasion, though wrong in itself, and not desirable as a general specimen of temper, is at least on the right side of the question, and could we be secure that it would always be confined to that side, would argue nothing against an entire claim on our sympathy; but there is yet another general feature, under which the Princess is to be viewed, and of which all our sympathy, and all our contempt for her enemies cannot enable her entirely to get rid;—she is indeed quite conscious of it herself, and justly complains that as long as nothing is decided respecting her, she is made to suffer for it, whether rightly or not. We allude to the smaller imputations of misconduct. There is a very general suspicion that they have been grossly exaggerated, and a very general persuasion that no actual reason is to be produced for withholding her daughter's society; but still as long as that society is denied or reduced to a nothing, so long are the world desired to believe that there really is something to give a colour to the severity, and so long will some such belief be in existence. How far severity would be justified, were the reasons for it assigned, is another matter; though even in case of actual cause, the time as well as the circumstances must be taken into consideration; for granting any levities to have existed, still, as Mr. Whitbread very reasonably observed, if they have ceased to exist during so long a period, it would be monstrous to visit them retrospectively, and rake up on the score of past conduct what has no connexion of character with present.—To sum up then the circumstances in which her Royal Highness stands at the present moment under the public eye, she is a mother suffering without a known reason,—with a very general belief that there *is* no reason,—but still with imputations to the contrary hanging about her, which nothing but some decision upon her case can entirely remove. In this unjustifiable and humiliating condition she is kept, not by the public, for the public protest against it,—not by the Foxites, for they protest against it,—not by the Pittites, for they acquitted and honoured her,—not by any party in fact, or any body of men,—but by one man, by an individual, and that individual her husband, *her natural protector*,—the Prince of Wales.

Now under what aspect does the Prince, in so treating his wife, present himself to our minds? unquestionably under that of a husband, who, in default of assigning his reasons, pursues the very reverse conduct that becomes him. There are journalists, indeed, who are not ashamed to tell us, that his Royal Highness has a *right* to act as he pleases in such a case, and that the public therefore have nothing further to do with it. By right they mean *legal* right, and even on this point their doctrine is questionable when it comes to interfere with natural right; but there is another sort of right, which these gentlemen are fond of overlooking, though no Prince can long overlook it with impunity, let the Courts of Law justify him as they may;—this is *moral right*,—the right by which we lay claim or otherwise to the respect of the community,—the right, which all persons have to the enjoyment of their comforts and natural affections, without the most special reasons to the contrary,—the right, by maintaining and respecting which, thrones and nations stand or fall. If these men wished to be the ruin instead of the defence of their Prince, they could not take a surer course for destroying him and his house than by setting up this legal right as the only standard of conduct to which a Prince need pay attention. The doctrine of libel, as it now flourishes on the Bench, is a tree of poison in this respect; and brings death to those who seek impunity under its shadow. A man may be legally right from one end of his life to the other, and yet be the most ridiculous, or obnoxious, or dangerous member of society; and if we look into the histories of those Kings, who have been ruined by flatterers and by a long impunity of evil, we shall find that they owed their destruction, not so much to any violation of civil laws, as to a disregard of all moral restraints, and a contempt of public opinion. To keep ourselves in view of the case before us, what should we think of a man in private, who should beat his wife with a stick? Yet whatever the better gallantry of modern times may have done for the ladies in this respect, the lower orders still assert, and are still allowed, their *legal right* to exercise such a mode of correction. But enough of this trifling with common sense. A Prince of Wales, it is clear, has no more right to ill-treat his wife than any other man, and is still more bound to alter his conduct or to assign his reasons for what must be considered as ill-treatment without them, inasmuch as his example is of greater consequence to the nation than that of a host of ordinary individuals, and may have an alarming effect upon the character or disposition of the times. As long therefore as the Prince of Wales continues this treatment under the

circumstances, he not only has nothing to shew for it; but when we look at his own habits of life, we find that he has every thing that should persuade him to a reverse proceeding,—every thing that should make him tender of reputations, and cautious how he excited a spirit of comparison and inquiry. The more our readers reflect on the matter in this point of view, the more will they be lost in surprise. That the PRINCESS is not guilty of any thing criminal, is quite clear to every body; but supposing for the sake of argument that she was guilty of the levities imputed to her, how comes her husband, of all men in the world, to be so resolute in remembering them? How comes *he*, of all people, to be so austere in his visitations of error? How comes *he* to be so nice in his sense of delicacy, to be so deaf to the excuses of frailty, to be so pertinacious in attempts to investigate, to be so rigid, so high, and so unpardoning? Certainly the public have set him no such example in its treatment of *him*,—the House of Commons set him no such example, when he came to them with broken promises and exhausted supplies,—the good-temper, and generosity, and long-suffering of the English nation here set him no such example. But we shall be told again, that the national welfare must be considered, and that though the Sovereign himself may not be the correctest of livers, it is nevertheless incumbent upon him to see that his family are. We repeat on our parts, be it so; and we say again, let him *prove* to us that such is his feeling, and let him give us his reasons: there is no getting over this point, if the PRINCESS is guilty. On the other hand, let us suppose, what so many eminent persons suppose,—what the House of Commons suppose,—what the Ministers have asserted,—in fine, what the law tells us to suppose, before proof to the contrary be exhibited, namely, that the PRINCESS is innocent,—let us suppose this, and what are we to say for the treatment then? To what are we to attribute it? To a wish that his ROYAL HIGHNESS's daughter may be entirely English? The thing is ludicrous. To his horror of even a wounded reputation? We laugh outright? To his exceeding fastidiousness in companionship? We finish our laughter with a groan.

No:—in no point of view on this occasion, does the PRINCE appear to be excusable,—saving and excepting always those circumstances of education and human fortune which will answer equally for all persons who are in the wrong, and which are to the Philosopher's purpose, not to the Judge's. We can pity and forgive a Prince in that respect, as much as we do any other man,—though not more, as some persons would have us; for if their temptations to error are greater, their encouragement to virtue is louder and grander, and their excuses are better received. But the PRINCE must answer for himself, where others do,—the more so, if he shews less disposition than most people to do justice to others; and we repeat, that in no one point of view on this occasion does he appear to be excusable; as a magistrate, he does not further the cause of justice; as a husband, he sets a bad example, and has given up his duty of protector without a reason;—as a gentleman and a man of gallantry, he does not *shine* (to say the least of it) in thus treating a lady,—a desolate female,—a woman in a land of strangers.

We say no more at present, except to express our wonder that his ROYAL HIGHNESS cannot find a single friend among those about him, to advise him against the *impolicy* of these proceedings. Is there no one to tell him how unwise it is to dabble in this manner with enquiries,—to play day after day with investigations,—to linger and sport about in the fore-court of royal impeachment?

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On 7th inst. a striking exhibition of public feeling took place at the Commemoration Dinner of the Welsh Charity. When the health of the PRINCE REGENT was given, it was received with chilling coldness and silence by the company; but on the Princess of WALES's health being proposed, it was welcomed by the general applause, and was continued for some time. Cannot Sir WILLIAM GARROW make a Libel of this? He might tell the Jury, and truly tell them, of the dreadful effects of *silent contempt*: and Mr. Justice LE BLANC, in passing sentence on the company would inform them, that the Ruler of a State *must* be held in consideration and treated with respect.

LORD KINNAIRD'S PICTURES.—The three performances, viz.:—POUSSIN (*Bacchanalians*); RUBENS, (*Judgment of Paris*); and the TITIAN, (*Bacchus and Ariadne*), were withdrawn from sale; but Lord GROSVENOR is supposed to be the buyer of them at 8,000 guineas. After these, the following were of the most value, and they sold nearly at the annexed prices:—

The GUIDO (Magdalena) - -	350 guineas.
The TENIERS - - - -	290
The REMBRANDT (his own head) -	210
TITIAN (Sophonisba) - - -	450
The DOMINICHINO (Bath of Diana)	400
The VELASQUEZ - - -	380
The MURILLO (Virgin Child) -	800
The Sir JOSHUA (Mrs. Billington) -	165

Copy of a note sent to the Clerk of a parish church in Gloucester:—"Mister my wief is ded, and wants to be berrid. dig a griefe for her, and she shall cum and be berrid to morret at wonner clock. You knows were to dig it; close by my uther wief; but let it be dip."

We country Politicians (says a Correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*), were surprised to read in the report of Mr. Peele's speech on the Catholic question; that he (Mr. Peele) and Mr. Fitzgerald were, from their difference of opinion, "very apt *cymbals* of their predecessor Mr. W. Pole." We naturally concluded that, by a mistake of the press, *cymbals* was put instead of *symbols*; but a very ingenious person amongst us thinks otherwise, and the following is his explanation of the difficulty:—

Though 'tis odd thus a couple of Cymbals to make
Of a pair of young gentlemen, 'tis no mistake;
And the printer was not, altogether, so rash;
For Cymbals (you'll find, if you've Chambers at hand)
Are *two* trumpery *things* *, just to *fill up* the band;
And the best that we know of them is—that they *clash!*

* "The modern Cymbal," says Chambers, "is a very *mean instrument*."

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SWEDEN.

GOTTENBURGH, FEB. 27.—Letters have this morning been received from Carlsham, stating, that Dantzic was taken. This intelligence, though not official, is generally believed. The same letters mention, that the King of Prussia has declared war against France. All the young men capable of bearing arms have gone to Breslau, where the King is. Another letter says, that the Russians entered Prayath on the 6th, and Pillau on the 8th. The Austrians in the neighbourhood of Warsaw are reported to have entered into a capitulation similar to that concluded by Gen. D'York. Intelligence has been received here from St. Petersburgh, dated the 13th instant, stating that Warsaw, Thorn, Liebau, and Posen, are in possession of the Russians. Dantzic, it was supposed, would surrender by capitulation about the 8th or 10th instant. Lord Cathcart left St. Petersburgh on the 12th instant for the army. By accounts from Berlin the Russians were within twelve miles of Berlin; the Cossacks had even pushed forward their reconnoitring parties till within four miles of it.

DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN, FEB. 9.—We have a report here, generally credited, that a convention has been signed in Saint Petersburgh between Lord Cathcart and the Danish Minister Bloid, the bases of which is a free trade to Norway, with a proviso that all privateering, both Danish and French, is to be forbidden by this country. It is also mentioned, that all the Danish prisoners in England will be immediately allowed to return home.

PRUSSIA.

KONIGSBERG, FEB. 11.—The town and fortress of Pillau have surrendered to the Imperial Russian troops.—In conformity to a convention made with the garrison, the French General Castella is to march out with the troops, with their arms, ammunition and baggage, and to retire with the same to the left bank of the Rhine, where they shall be released from all obligations.

STATE PAPER.

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE.

LOUIS XVIII., &c. &c.

The moment is at length arrived, when Divine Providence appears ready to break in pieces the instrument of its wrath. The Usurper of the throne of St. Louis, the devastator of Europe, experiences reverses in his turn. Shall they have no other effect than that of aggravating the calamities of France; and will she not dare to overturn an odious power, no longer protected by the illusions of victory? What prejudices or what fears can now prevent her from throwing herself into the arms of her King; and from recognising, in the establishment of his legitimate authority, the only pledge of union, peace, and happiness, which his promises have so often guaranteed to his oppressed subjects?

Being neither able nor inclined to obtain, but by their efforts, that throne which his rights and their affection can alone confirm, what wishes should be adverse to those which he has invariably entertained? what doubt can be started with regard to his paternal intentions?

The King has said in his preceding declarations, and he reiterates the assurance, that the Administrative and Judicial Bodies shall be maintained in the plenitude of their powers; that he will preserve their places to those who at present hold them, and who shall take the oath of fidelity to him; that the Tribunals, Depositaries of the Laws, shall prohibit all prosecutions bearing relation to those unhappy times of which his return will have for ever sealed the oblivion: that, in fine, the code polluted by the name of Napoleon, but which, for the most part, contains only the ancient ordinances and customs of the realm, shall remain in force, with the exception of enactments contrary to the doctrines of religion, which, as well as the liberty of the people, has long been subjected to the caprice of the Tyrant.

The Senate, in which are seated some men so justly distinguished for their talents, and whom so many services may render illustrious in the eyes of France and of posterity,—that corps, whose utility and importance can never be duly appreciated till after the restoration,—can it fail to perceive the glorious destiny which summons it to become the first instrument of that great benefaction which will prove the most solid as well as the most honourable guarantee of its existence and its prerogatives?

On the subject of property, the King, who has already announced his intention to employ the most proper means for conciliating the interests of all, perceives in the numerous settlements which have taken place between the old and the new land-holders, the means of rendering those cares almost superfluous. He engages, however, to interdict all proceedings by the Tribunals, contrary to such settlements,—to encourage voluntary arrangements, and, on the part of himself and his family, to set the example of all those sacrifices which may contribute to the repose of France, and the sincere union of all Frenchmen.

The King has guaranteed to the army the maintenance of the ranks, employments, pay, and appointments which it at present enjoys. He promises also to the Generals, Officers, and soldiers, who shall signalise themselves in support of his cause, rewards more substantial, distinctions more honourable, than any they can receive from an Usurper,—always ready to disown, or even to dread their services. The King binds himself anew to abolish that pernicious Conscription, which destroys the happiness of families and the hope of the country.

Such always have been such still are the intentions of the King. His re-establishment on the Throne of his Ancestors will be for France only the happy transition from the calamities of a war which tyranny perpetuates, to the blessings of a solid peace, for which foreign Powers can never find any security but in the word of the legitimate Sovereign. L.

Hartwell, Feb. 1, 1813.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

WEYMOUTH, MARCH 7.—On Tuesday last this place exhibited perhaps one of the most interesting scenes which has ever been witnessed; certainly the most so of which this Borough can boast, enslaved as it has been for a series of years past, lying unconstitutionally prostrate at the feet of a patron, whose aim has been to deprive its inhabitants of their just and legal privileges,—that of choosing their own Representatives. By the meritorious exertions of the independent part of the Freeholders,—those of an upright and well chosen Committee,—and the unwearied efforts of their often-tried champion, Mr. Williams,—the late unexampled and infamous election was brought before a Committee of the House of Commons, and the result has been, the three Members chosen by the Patron have been unseated for gross corruption and treating. The joy of the majority of the town at having at length broken the galling chain, and cast the fetters from themselves and their posterity, may be better imagined than described;—and it was agreed that as soon as the Petitionary Candidates arrived within the precincts of the Borough, they should be met with such marks of respect as could, on so short notice, be collected together. If proof were wanting to shew of what temper and metal Britons are made, when left to the unbiassed feelings of their own minds,—it was here demonstrated. In an hour and a half six thousand persons, it was computed, had assembled at the turnpike gate, and the following procession was ar-

ranged:—Freeholders, two and two, with purple cockades, bearing branches of laurel;—Flags carried by them, two a-breast;—Freeholders as above, two and two;—the Committee, two and two;—Flags by them, two a-breast;—a Horseman, bearing a purple silk Flag, on which appeared in large gold letters, "For our Country, Ourselves, and our Children;"—a Boat, placed on carriage wheels, decorated with flags, Union-Jacks, &c. and boughs of laurel:—in her bow sat the Chairman of the Independent Committee, and at the helm, Capt. Ferris, R. N.—As soon as Messrs. Williams and Steward had reached the turnpike, they were lifted out of their respective carriages, and placed in the centre of the Boat, which then moved on, accompanied by loud acclamations, till they reached Mr. Williams's, in Gloucester-row, where they halted, and gave him repeated cheers, with every mark of heart-felt enthusiasm, joy, and gratitude. After some time, the procession passed on through all the principal streets on Melcombe and Weymouth side, returning in the same order back to Mr. Williams's.—As soon as they reached his residence, silence being obtained, Mr. Williams, in a very animated speech, thanked them for himself and his friend Mr. Steward, for the distinguished mark of their approbation conferred that day, and briefly but forcibly dwelt upon the necessity of their continuing to exert themselves in defence of their just and legal rights, and finally concluded by assuring them he would never desert their cause so long as he lived, and they judged him worthy of their confidence. Loud and repeated acclamations followed Mr. Williams's affecting address, which continued a length of time after the Candidates had left their station. About six o'clock the populace quietly dispersed, after having evinced, in the strongest manner, that though corruption and undue influence may for awhile spread their baneful sway, the spirit of patriotism is yet undistinguished. In the words of a late writer on this subject, "the fire of tyranny may purify, but will never consume the unalloyed gold of resolute and disinterested virtue. One race may be extinguished, but another of congenial principles will be raised from their ashes to confront their adversaries."—Genus immortale manet; multosque per annos (stat fortuna domûs, et avi meneruntur avorum).—We need not inform our readers that Mr. Williams is a staunch Parliamentary Reformist, which forms the strongest grounds of his claims for the confidence and support of his fellow subjects.

Owing to the culpable negligence of leaving fire arms within the reach of young people, the following accident happened lately:—The son of Mr. Shepherd, mason, near Widcomb Church, Somersetshire, took up a gun, and not knowing it was loaded, shot his sister in the head; she suffered great agonies, and expired on the following day. The lad is about ten years old, and the unfortunate girl was 13.

A man at Portsmouth, assuming the name of Burke, and professing himself to be an Assistant Surgeon, under orders for embarkation to the West Indies, chose to fall in love with a young lady in Newport, and was to be married, but her friends wishing to satisfy themselves as to his respectability, proposed to defer the wedding for a day or two; he waited on Major C——, and asked him to identify his person, but as this gentleman knew nothing of him, he of course refused. Being foiled in this, he determined to transfer his love to another young lady; and was married. The happy couple proceeded to Ryde to spend the honey moon, and in a few days they packed up the whole of their family plate, and three hundred pounds in cash she had at the death of her father, to go on board; after which they went to Newport to take leave of her mother, when he observed there was an officer at the depot he wished to call on, and that she was to meet him at Cowes; after going to Cowes and waiting for his arrival the whole day, she went to Ryde, and to her great mortification she found he had been to the lodging and carried off the whole of the property. It turns out that he was a waiter.

MURDER.—About fifteen months since, a prisoner of Porchester depot composed some verses, and among the characters introduced, one struck the mind of a prisoner named Tardif, as being written to satirise him; this erroneous idea invariably operated upon the demoniac spirit of the wretch, who sought numerous opportunities to glut his vengeance on Mr. Legue, from whom he imagined the writer had received the hints. Some weeks back, the assassin, in order to render his weapon (a large clasp knife) the more certain in its operation, bound the handle with waxed cord, that his grasp might prove more firm, and also rendered the back, as well as the edge, of the sharpness of a razor: this weapon he denominated his guardian angel, which was nightly his companion in bed; nor is it less a fact, that the dreams of this monster were so disturbed, that the prisoner who slept adjoining requested to know whether he (Tardif) would not wish to be awakened when he became so dreadfully agitated? "No!" replied this dæmon "for I am then dreaming of a deadly enemy that has dishonoured me, and although he appears to conquer for a time, yet the vision always terminates by giving me his blood." Thus, after the lapse of thirteen months, on the 1st inst., Tardiff found the long-desired opportunity, when, rushing upon his victim, he literally ripped him open, and the bowels obtruded themselves, when Legue, bending forward, received his entrails into his hands, exclaiming at the same time, "I am a dead man!" "Oh! no," cried the murderer, ironically, "it is merely a scratch!" Then twice plunging the knife up to the hilt in the back of Legue, exclaimed, "Take that—and that." He was proceeding to inflict further wounds, when another prisoner arrested his murderous arm, on which the villain calmly said, "I have now completed my work, and am content; you may take my weapon, and me, too, wheresoever you think fit." While binding his arms, he requested those around to stand aside, in order that he might glut his sight with the view of his victim; and ironically remarked, "I have sent you before me upon your journey, that you may procure me a lodging." One of the prisoners then inquired, why he did not at least prove that he possessed one noble sentiment, by plunging the knife into his own breast, after the perpetration of the deed, in order to escape the gallows? "It was originally my intention," replied the wretch, "but it afterwards struck me that I might expire first, and then the certainty of having taken his life would not have been known to me, and nothing less would have gratified my heart." Soon after the villain was ironed, he fell into a sound and apparently tranquil sleep, from which he did not awake till a late hour, when he remarked, that he had not enjoyed such repose for the last twelve months, and that he gloried in the immolation of his victim. On Wednesday, the Coroner's inquest sat on the body, and pronounced a verdict of wilful murder against Tardiff, who was removed to Winchester gaol to take his trial.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Nothing of importance before this House till Friday, when the Marquis WELLESLEY brought forward his motion on the Peninsular War, the conduct of which, as it regarded Ministers, he highly blamed, and moved for a Committee of Inquiry. His motion was negatived by a majority of 76.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 8.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

Lord PALMERSTON (the House having gone into a Committee) said, that in laying before the Committee the Army Estimates for the present year, it would scarcely be necessary for him to state more than what was the case last year. Compared with last year, the increase of men would be found to be 12,141, and 90,000*l.* in charge. In the infantry an increase of 9000 men, and an increased charge of 70,000*l.* In the embodied Militia, there was an increase of 17,000*l.* In the miscellaneous Charges, there would be an increase of 151,000*l.*, but then there were several deductions which would reduce the actual excess to about 80,000*l.* on the British establishment, and 7000*l.* on the Irish establishment. In the Commander in Chief's

Office, an increase in the Widows' Pensions of 1200*l.*; in the Foreign Corps an increase of ninety thousand pounds; in the Commissariat Departments, there was an increase of expence amounting to 39,000*l.* The Recruiting Service had been more productive than for several years past: ordinary recruiting for the last year produced 14,413 men. Last year, including Militia, we had added 24,270 men to the army by voluntary enlistment. It was highly satisfactory to see the military ardour of the country raised in proportion to the circumstances of the times. The Noble Lord then explained the reasons of the difference in the return of casualties, which did not always account for the whole amount. The total number of men for last year, including Militia, recovered Deserters, Foreigners, 400 Spaniards, and others, might be taken at 39,162. Casualties were reckoned at 26,760: the total number, however, appeared to be above 29,000, leaving 2700 unaccounted for. He should reserve any further observations, and move his first Resolution, for granting 6,000,000*l.* for the Land Forces.

Capt. BENNETT said, that the ordinary recruiting in 1807 produced 19,000. He objected to the present mode, and contended for the great superiority of the plan of Mr. Windham. Many casualties were yet to be reported from abroad: he entered into various calculations to prove the loss of the army must be greater than was stated. There was a Board for directing the clothing of the Army, and he wished to know who were its active members, who were the military arbiters *elegantiarum?* Who were the persons who devoted their time and talents to the mode of sticking ostrich feathers into Generals' hats, and fastening tags on their shoulders, and arranging the other articles of dress? WHO WERE THE MILITARY MILLINERS? The Guards were sent abroad. Did any Gentleman see them before they went? Nothing could be more absurd than these military changes: they were worthy of Grimaldi or M. D'Egville: adorned as they were in all their pantomimic pomp and feathers, they looked like the Rinaldos of an epic poem. It might be said, that fine troops at home were destroyed, and bad troops sent abroad. The time that had been called politically a new era, was also a new era with the army. There was a Cavalry Clothing Board appointed, *with the Duke of Cumberland at its head*, whose resolves were memorialised against by General Officers as absurd, and one of whose regulations was called "*inflicting a cap on the Cavalry.*" One leading proposition was to deprive the dragoon of his boots, but the Duke of York afterwards cancelled the order, and dissolved the Board. Then came another Board, under Lord Harrington, rather more meritorious. As the former one would take away the dragoon's boots, so the latter would deprive him of his breeches. Laughable as this seemed, it was the fact; the heavy dragoon was to have white worsted pantaloons,—(*a laugh*)—and on home service, blue worsted web pantaloons!—(*Hear!*)—These changes increased the Colonel of a regiment's profits 700*l.* a year; though the men would be worse off by 380*l.* A great expense was likewise to be incurred by the saddle-cloths, *to please some idle, trumpery, paltry, and contemptible taste;* and this was to be provided for out of the savings in the saddlery, by introducing the worsted pantaloons. Allowances were to be made to Colonels, who were to provide and keep up the muffs, and other articles of dress. He objected to the enormous expence of those things.—An Officer's jacket cost him 28*l.* his pelice 21*l.* and his pantaloons 4*l.*; his sands, cap, belt, &c. 60*l.* This he learned from his tailor; and his saddler informed him that the horse furniture came to eight guineas. *Altogether, the expence was one hundred and eight pounds!*—(*Hear, hear!*)

A MEMBER, whose name is not known, said, that the real number added to the army was only 22,000, and the real loss 29,000. From the Gazettes, we might see that a greater proportion of British troops had been killed than of foreign: one third of our addition to the army, however, was in foreigners. During the last three months the Noble Lord had said the loss was 4000; yet our Gazettes made it only 1500. Why not publish fairly? The country was not afraid of looking at its dangers. The loss was thus two or three times greater than was supposed. It would have been more satisfactory if the Noble Lord had proposed some plan to diminish the expense. The numbers raised had been raised by defacing the Militia.

Mr. HUSKISSON said, that if our exigencies were to be provided for, for many years of war, as late years had been provided for, we must be involved in great difficulties, increased by this new measure. After alluding to various topics, Mr. H. said, that the great and real complaint he had to make against the vast expenditure in the Estimates, arose from the enormous establishment of the Staff, which, without any necessity whatever, was actually increased. The fact was, our establishment at home was all Staff, without cavalry, without infantry, without any real force of any real description. He therefore thought that the Noble Lord ought not to press this part of the Estimates on the Committee, as a just or expedient part of the expences to be incurred: for he could fairly put it to the good sense of the Committee, whether the expences, caused, as they had been, by the dangers which threatened us from abroad, should not terminate when those dangers ceased to exist? There was one item, designated the repairs of the Horse Guards, amounting to 10,000*l.*, although a similar sum had been voted last year. The sum to be applied to the maintenance of the Volunteer Corps, exceeding 200,000*l.*, might with great propriety be saved, for these corps were but nominally kept up; and the objects for which they were formed had long been at an end. Yet a sum of 14,000*l.* was appropriated to the payment of the Staff of this part of the establishment, *when there were no volunteers to inspect.* Why, he was justified in asking, was not that service performed by General and other Officers of the Staff who had nothing else to do? The calling out the Local Militia was another item of expence, altogether unwarranted. It was high time that an alteration should be adopted in so expensive and useless a system. If the savings which might with safety be made were calculated, it would be found that they would amount to a very considerable sum, which might be applied to the grand object of the country at the present moment,—the carrying on of offensive operations, in concert with our Allies, against the common enemy.

Mr. HILEY ADDINGTON differed totally from his Hon. Friend, with respect to the calling out of the Local Militia. To do justice to the system, it ought to be fostered and encouraged in time of absence from all danger, in order to render it efficient in the hour of peril.

Mr. FREMANTLE could not suppress his surprise at finding, from the papers on the table, that General Delancey was still employed, although he had been dismissed from his office of Barrack-master General, and that he continued to possess a salary of 2075*l.* per annum. In 1804 the issues for the army were 18 millions; now they are 25 millions, without any considerable addition to the force. As the estimates were thus perpetually increasing, he thought it the duty of the House to look narrowly into them.

Mr. CREEVEY said, that there was one part of the estimates upon which he meant to divide the Committee. An excess had been stated of 34,000*l.* in the department of the Paymaster. Now he should wish to make a permanent saving in this department of 2,500*l.* yearly, by flinging one of the Joint-paymasters and his deputy *overboard (a laugh)*. The Finance Committee in 1810, recommended the abolition of one of those offices as a sinecure. Mr. Long, in his evidence admitted that Lord C. Somerset had a salary of 2000*l.* a year, and his Deputy 500*l.*; that his Lordship interfered *but little*, and that his Deputy was *sometimes* out of England for a considerable time, without the public business sustaining any loss. The situation which Lord C. Somerset held was a complete sinecure. His Lordship was, besides being Paymaster, one of the Generals of Districts, whom he was himself to pay. His district too, was something like a sinecure, for there were four or five General Officers there, and but very few men.

Lord C. SOMERSET did not conceive that the public could gain any permanent advantage from the proposed abolition, for in that case the law would give to the single paymaster the same salary which was now divided between the two Joint-paymasters.

Mr. LONG observed, that the office of Paymaster had been

called a sinecure. As far as related to his office, it was nothing like a sinecure. He himself had not been absent from the office for more than a week since he had held the situation. But although the same sort of attendance was not necessary from Lord C. Somerset, his Lordship had always readily *offered* his assistance when he was much pressed with business, and had taken upon himself that part of the business which related to Chelsea Hospital, which was by no means a sinecure.

Mr. CREEVEY said, that it was manifest that the only reason for splitting the office of Paymaster into two was to make two Parliamentary places instead of one. Although Mr. Long, who discharged all the real duties of the situation, had a nominal salary of but 2000*l.* yearly, yet when it was recollected, that he had a pension of 1500*l.* per annum, and a house given him, it would not appear that his emoluments were less than 4000*l.* annually, which was the old salary of a single Paymaster. The 2000*l.* given to the Noble Lord, and the 500*l.* to a Noble Relation of his, who was his Deputy, were expences which ought to be retrenched.

Lord PALMERSTON said, that an Hon. Gentleman had been facetious about the clothing of the Army. It must, however, be recollected, that it was a number of General Officers, at the head of whom was the Commander in Chief, who presided over the regulations in this respect. The equipment of the Life Guards had been compared to the Rinaldos and Orlandos. He trusted that they would justify the comparison by their conduct in the field of battle. Some Gentleman objected to their breeches and their boots, but he hoped no Gentleman would wish to strip our cavalry of those articles, and place them in a situation that a French General was said to be put in, when taken completely by surprize, by an attack of our troops. If pantaloons had in many cases been substituted for leather-breeches, it was because they were found more convenient on service. If the new helmets appeared to some to be fantastical, it would appear to others more ridiculous to see the troops in the small three cocked hats which they formerly wore, dripping with rain, and liable to be knocked off their heads in action. He believed that so far from any gain on the new equipments, the Colonels were rather loser. Although a few accidental mistakes might creep into the returns made by the British Officers, their general accuracy was unquestionable; and he would say most positively, that the returns which were transmitted to the Government, were always published without alteration or suppression. He would allow that it might be possible to point out some petty retrenchment, but he believed that it was absolutely impossible to make any material reduction in our military expences.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed that the Noble Lord talked of savings of 10 or 20,000*l.* with more levity than became his situation. The Noble Lord talked very pathetically of small three-cocked hats; he should remember that the Blues still wore them. In his own opinion, the substituted helmet, beside its absurd appearance, was too heavy, and even too dangerous for the head. The method of dressing some regiments of cavalry was quite preposterous; let any gentleman in passing survey the men at the Horse-Guards, with their tall straight caps, without the least shelter from the sun; and then let him think, if whim or a regard to the comfort of a soldier directed these alterations. In compliance with the same whimsical taste, the English saddles were supplanted by foreign saddles. It was true that the English were the best in the world; yet some person had taken a fancy to the foreign accoutrement, and the men and horses were therefore to be dressed in a stile which every where, except in that House, was treated with derision. The Noble Lord had called his Hon. Friend facetious; the Board of General Officers were far more facetious, for they made all England laugh every day (*laughter*). He wished the colour of the regimentals to be changed to the original red; for blue, which had lately been adopted in our army, led to great mistakes and confusion, as the English soldiers frequently mistook each other for the enemy.

Mr. BANKES thought there might be a deduction of six or 700,000*l.* out of the military expences of the year. He made some remarks against the double office of Paymaster, insisting that it was at once inconsistent with economy, and highly inefficient.

Mr. W. SMITH condemned in the strongest terms the dress of the cavalry, and said there was but one feeling out of the House on this subject.

The House then divided on Mr. Creevey's Amendment.—For it 40,—Against it 124.—Majority against it 84.—Adj.

Tuesday, March 9.

The SPEAKER bestowed the thanks of the House on Sir S. Cotton, for his gallant conduct at Salamanca, where he led the way to victory.—Sir Stapleton made a suitable reply.

THE CATHOLIC CLAIMS.

The House having gone into a Committee on these Claims,

Mr. LUSHINGTON made a speech against the Catholics, to which Mr. GRATTAN replied, and concluded by moving, "That with a view to the preservation of the Church and the State, and uniting all classes of his Majesty's subjects, it would be necessary to remove the disabilities which his Majesty's Catholic subjects laboured under, taking care at the same time to adopt such measures as should secure the safety of the Episcopal Church of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Church of Scotland."

The SPEAKER (Mr. Abbott) disapproved of the proposed measure, though he was not altogether inimical to concession: he would proceed with caution. He would open to the Catholics military rank to the second degree—the honours of the bar, without allowing them civil power—and other minor advantages. But the basis of the proposed bill was too sweeping—it was subversive of the Church and Constitution!—(*Hear, hear!*)

Sir J. C. HIPPISLEY was of opinion, that the spiritual power of the Pope should be guarded against. Domestic nomination he thought a wholesome arrangement. He had an intention of moving for a Select Committee to enquire into the tenets of the Roman Catholic religion, and he should then propose an Address to the Regent, praying him to permit the Committee to have recourse to a register in his possession, containing entries of the appointments of Roman Catholic Bishops since the Revolution.—Prejudices had hitherto opposed the claims of the Catholics. He hoped these would operate against them no longer.

Mr. BATHURST opposed the motion, which was supported by Sir J. NEWPORT, Lord MILTON, and Lord DYSART.

Mr. WILBERFORCE was of opinion, that as the elective franchise had been given to the Roman Catholics, he thought it absurd and injurious to deny them seats in Parliament, (*Hear, hear!*) and strongly contended, that admitting them to sit in Parliament could in no respect be dangerous to the Constitution. He was decidedly in favour of the measure, with proper securities, and considered the present time to be peculiarly favourable for carrying it, from the general diffusion of light and knowledge which had taken place, and the consequent honourable ambition which had arisen in the breasts of Catholic Gentlemen, every way qualified to take a share in the political duties of the Country.

Dr. DUIGENAN spoke at considerable length against the Claims, but amid so much noise, that it was impossible to follow him. He contended that their scheme now was precisely the same as that entertained by James II.; and that, if accomplished, it would be equal to a total revolution in the Government of the country.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said he should give his cordial vote for the resolution, as leading towards an issue, which if accomplished, would be a blessing to the people, and a protection to the Empire.

Mr. CANNING observed, that his hopes were much raised by this night's discussion, when so much more had been conceded on all sides than had ever been conceded before. During the whole night, they had only heard one Right Hon. Gentleman contend that things should remain as they were (Dr. Duigenan); and he, to do him justice, never flinched from his duty, but stood like a mighty pillar amid the ruins from which all the others fled—(*A laugh.*)—His voice they seemed anxious to drown, that it might not reproach them with their abandonment—(*A laugh.*)

The House divided, when there appeared—For the Resolution, 186,—Against it, 119,—Majority in its favour, 67.—Adjourned.

Thursday, March 11.

A Committee of 21 was appointed, to consider the State of the Laws respecting Copyrights, &c.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BILL.

After some further debate, this Bill was carried by a majority of 38.—Sir S. ROMILLY said, that one of the greatest calamities that could befal the country was, the passing of such a Bill, which must affect the independence of the profession, and open a path to its highest honours through the intrigues of a Court.—Adjourned.

Friday, March 12.

Mr. WHITBREAD asked, whether the Manifesto so lately set forth by Lewis the XVIIIth to the people of France, had the concurrence or approbation of His Majesty's Ministers?

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, it was not published with the sanction of the Ministry.

Mr. TIERNEY asked whether copies of this Manifesto, several of which were distributed on board our ships of war, were so distributed by the advice of the Ministry?

No answer.

The Sinecure Place Bill was ordered to be read a third time on Monday.

Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

D. Goodall and T. Wilkinson, Paternoster-row, crape-manufacturers.

J. W. Spencer, Wood-street, Cheapside, ribbon-merchant.

J. Harwood, Warwick, grocer.

W. Northrook, Ipswich, victualler.

T. Marsh, Newman's-row, Lincoln's-inn-fields, watch-maker.

W. Nayler and J. Cockerton, Sheffield, fellmongers.

J. White, King's Ripon, Huntingdon, horse-dealer.

J. Cooper, junr. Great Grimsby, tanner.

J. Phillips, Exeter, inn-keeper.

G. Harwood, Beverly, York, victualler.

G. Bradbury, Stockport, grocer.

A. Hurley, Corsham, Wilts, maltster.

G. Tyndall, Oxford-street, linen-draper.

A. M'Kinrot, King's Bench Prison, merchant.

E. Edwards, Old street-road, twine-spinner.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Elkington, Rugby, Warwickshire, carpenter.

W. Bowdler and Co. Old Change, warehousemen.

G. Price, Tottenham-court, New-road, tailor.

G. Chadwin, Brassington, Derbyshire, cornfactor.

J. Reedhead, Ouseburn, Northumberland, dealer and chapman.

J. Foster and Co. Pontefract, Yorkshire, shopkeepers.

E. Waters, Newport, Monmouthshire, coal-merchant.

J. Thompson, Kerkle-Grove, Whitehaven, merchant.

J. Greeves, Lynn, Norfolk, upholsterer.

J. Sheen, Abchurch-lane, London, brandy-merchant.

J. S. Barnes, Sweeting's alley, London, merchant.

P. Wilson, Wapping-wall, publican.

W. Seton Maitland, North-street, Red Lion-square, merchant.

J. Wright, Bristol, timber-dealer.

W. Attwood, Elstow, Bedfordshire, horse-dealer.

J. S. Swan, Friday street, warehouseman.

C. Falconer, Wapping, victualler.

J. West, jun. Bath, butcher.

[illegible]. Hides, Bramshaw, Wilts, dealer.

[illegible] Gotlib, London, merchant.

[illegible]ler, High Holborn, tallow-chandler.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols,.....58⅞ 59⅛ ⅜ | 5 per Cent. Navy....58¾ ⅞

Many Communications are still delayed for want of room.

The VOLUMES of the *Examiner* for last year are ready for delivery, in boards, price 2 guineas.

THE EXAMINER.

London, March 14.

Two Gottenburgh Mails arrived yesterday. They state that after a sanguinary battle on the 18th, near Posen, the Russians entered Berlin on the 20th, and that some Cossacks approached within 14 leagues of Hamburgh, where they were expected on the 27th.—In the certainty of this event, the populace prevented some chests of money and other effects from being carried off by the French, rose on the Douanes, and ill-treated and pillaged the houses of the Commissaries.—The Emperor's Head-quarters were on the 5th of Feb. removed to Plozk.—The parties of Cossacks which preceded the columns of the main army, arrived on the 4th February at Gombien and Gostinin, without having seen any enemy.

The Evidence given in this day's Paper from the celebrated "*Book*," is carefully extracted from that given in the Court Papers of yesterday (*Post* and *Herald*). Some of Lady DOUGLAS's, however, is of much too gross a nature for publication in our Paper.

It ought to be universally known, that the two Daily Papers in the Court interest, the *Post* and *Herald*, had the meanness to omit all that part of Mr. WORTLEY's speech in Parliament, which spoke out respecting the conduct of the Prince and the Royal Family!—This is doubtless a specimen of their boasted independence and impartiality.

FRENCH MARINE.—The French Expose states, that France will have in a few years 150 sail of the line, 12 of them 3-deckers, and a still greater number of frigates.—We believe she now counts 100 sail of the line; but to man them with seamen is the difficulty.—"Of our 100 vessels," says this official paper, "we have now 63 armed, equipped, and provisioned for six months; constantly appearing in such a situation, that no one knows at the moment of weighing anchor, whether it be to exercise or for a distant expedition.——The maritime Conscription produces 20,000 young men annually."

The population of France is 42,700,000, of which 28,700,000 are contained in the Departments of Old France. This estimate is not founded on mere conjecture, but on an accurate census. It is an augmentation of 2,500,000, or nearly one-tenth within 24 years.—*French Expose*.

By the last letters from the Peninsula, dated the 15th February, we learn that much sickness prevailed in the army, particularly among the Guards, and the last reinforcements from England. Lord WELLINGTON was about to build an hospital for 3000 men, at Espije. The French had advanced in foraging parties as far as St. Felice, within five leagues of Alamada, the head-quarters of our light division, and had plundered and laid waste the whole coun-

try between the two armies—declaring that they would make it necessary for the British, if they chose to advance, to bring with them every thing necessary to their subsistence. The French army in the Peninsula, was estimated as follows:—Soult, 45,000, Drouet, 32,000, Joseph, 13,000—90,000. Of whom about 10,000 are cavalry.—*Morning Chronicle.*

Captain Leuthen has arrived with dispatches from Copenhagen. It is understood that these official communications relate to the terms upon which tranquillity is proposed to be restored between Great Britain and Denmark; which are said to be, that no offensive operations against France in the approaching campaign are to be entered into by Denmark, but perfect friendship is to be renewed, and all the ports of Norway and the Danish Islands are to be open to the navigation and merchandize of Great Britain as to the most favoured nation.

Lord Ellenborough calls Sir Wm. Scott "a great man," expecting perhaps that Sir William will return the compliment.—This is a usual course with second-rate men; but his Lordship may rest assured, that posterity will not repeat the epithet.—Sir Wm. Scott, we learn, is deemed an able lawyer; but if the term "great" is to be applied to his Lordship, it must certainly be that he is a great Courtier; which no one will deny.

The Directors of the British Institution have declared Mr. Bird's picture of *The Death of Eli* entitled to the first premium of the present year, being 300 guineas; and the second premium of 200 guineas has been awarded to Mr. Halls, for his picture of *The Raising of Jairus's Daughter.*

Bread.—The Lord Mayor, after inspecting the meal-weigher's returns, has ordered the price of Bread to rise half an assize; the Quartern Loaf is therefore 1*s.* 6½*d.*

The condition of the Princess is a striking instance of the insufficiency of rank and wealth to produce happiness. Married, yet without a husband:—a mother, and hardly permitted to see her only child!—She might indeed exclaim,—

> "Tis better to be lowly born,
> "And range with humble livers in content,
> "Than to be perked up in a glistering grief,
> "And wear a golden sorrow."

Is the Sir John Douglas, now Groom of the Bedchamber to the Duke of Sussex, the person whose evidence *on oath* against the Princess (and that of his wife also) was utterly rejected by the Commissioners?—At whose suggestion, and by whose permission, did the Sir John Douglas, and the woman we allude to, present themselves at Court, after such their evidence had been scouted?—It is indeed said, that they were there on the very day on which, by the King's positive command, the Princess herself appeared at the Drawing-Room, and that they were most graciously received by the Queen!

The words 'suborned traducers' in the Princess of Wales's letter, it is said, had no reference to the Prince himself. "The imputation (says the *Chronicle*) was thrown in 1806, by the advocates of the Princess, on a Noble Earl, *distinguished by his chivalrous gallantry in behalf of the Prince.* It alluded to certain jaunts to Belvedere-house and grounds, which lay near the residence of the Princess; and it *occurred* to the Noble Earl, that by an examination of some of the domestics, evidence *might* be obtained. Nothing, however, came of the inference; and the Noble Earl, in consequence of the charge, entered a minute of explanation on the Council-book, vindicating himself from all irregularity in the inquiry he made."—How does the Noble Earl, who is so "distinguished for his chivalrous gallantry in behalf of the Prince," like this defence?—The person who puts this question, once talked with a Gentleman, who said he was expressly authorised by Lord Moira to *publish* certain matters of this kind, highly injurious to her Royal Highness, in a daily evening paper; which in fact were published.—If the Noble Earl was deceived, it will become him to go down to the House of Lords and say so;—a little of his "chivalrous gallantry" may well be bestowed on a Lady and a Princess.

"Monday afternoon as the Princess of Wales was returning in her carriage down Constitution Hill, her Royal Highness observed the Princess Charlotte in her carriage, passing along Piccadilly towards Hyde Park. The Princess of Wales immediately ordered her coachman to turn about, and the horses proceeding nearly at a gallop, overtook the Princess Charlotte's carriage in Hyde Park, near the bridge. Their Royal Highnesses threw themselves through the windows of their carriages, affectionately embraced, and continued in earnest conversation for about ten minutes. A considerable number of spectators were very soon attracted to the spot, and several Ladies who were present shed tears at the affecting nature of the interview. When their Royal Highnesses had separated, the Princess Charlotte was observed, on continuing her ride, to be in high spirits, and apparently highly gratified at the opportunity she had enjoyed of an affectionate interchange of endearment with her Royal Mother."—*Morning Chronicle.*

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 131.

COVENT GARDEN.

We have to beg pardon of Mr. Kenney for having so long neglected to notice his farce of *Love, Law, and Physic.* It has indeed met with that substantial approbation, compared to which, in most minds, empty praise is matter of contempt: but we apprehend the mind of this gentleman is of a different construction, and that to him a little perhaps not indiscriminate panegyric will be no unpleasant addition to the more solid advantages of successful third nights. We consider Mr. Kenney in no small degree a benefactor to the stage, not more for the pleasantry and animation of his compositions, than because he has contributed to destroy a very silly error, that it was impossible to introduce a new character in the drama. Bad writers, in apology for their extravagant plots and absurd jokes, insist that the stock of human characters has been written out, and exhausted, whereas we will venture to say, that except in two or three instances what may properly be called character has been untouched by dramatic writers. Great ruling passions, such as ambition, jealousy, revenge, have been expressed with energy and truth by several tragic poets; and leading appetites and habits, such as avarice, vanity, and lust have been successfully ridiculed by the comic muse. But it is not the predominance of a particular passion that constitutes character; the peculiarities arising from education, particular habits of society, and individual modes of thinking, whose origin can scarcely be traced in mature life,

these, as operated upon by some strong passion, are the characteristics which distinguish man from man. Leading features belong to the universal kind, and to whole classes: as all men have noses and eyes, and vast numbers of men have aquiline noses and grey eyes: but the line of thought, the varying expression, the air and the complexion, these are the distinctive traits of the human countenance, and so distinctive, that two faces of precisely similar features shall from these circumstances be totally unlike in their collective appearance. The mind of man is surely as various as the countenance which takes its chief expression from the operations of the mind. Yet the painters of dramatic portraits have given us nothing but general descriptions and likenesses which will suit any body. If they describe ambition, out comes a blustering fellow with a hard name, and rants through five acts about slaughter and death, and kingly crowns. Any body acquainted with dramatic literature, will recognise at once Lee's *Varanes*, Young's *Busiris*, and Rowe's *Bajazet*: let him then, to refresh himself for the sameness of these portraits, refer to Shakspeare's delineations of the same passion in the proud *Bolingbroke*, the deep designing mighty-minded *Richard*, the impetuous *Hotspur*, and the brave, but wavering *Macbeth*. Another writer wishes to paint avarice, and straight appears an old gentleman with a bob-wig, and brown coat dangling to his heels, his name *Lovegold*, or *Gripe*, or something equally expressive; and he plays his part, repeating prudential saws, scolding his daughter on account of a new cap, or his son for a new pair of boots: and in order to discriminate his character the more effectually, he loses a purse of money, about which he raises an outcry as loud as if a city was sacked in the dead of night. But who are those lisping, mincing gentlemen, with eye-glasses and snuff-boxes, bowing to ladies, and ogling themselves? They seem all dressed alike, and all use the same polite phrases, of "Demme, Madam;" and "Vastly charming." These are the stage-fops: for it is a rule that an embroidered coat, a gold snuff-box, and a few elegant expressions of fashion, are quite sufficient to embody a theatric petit-maitre. Addison thought otherwise, as his differently shaded pictures demonstrate: but then Mr. Dibdin and Mr. Reynolds are not bound to write like Addison.

It would be unjust however to allege, that modern Dramatists have alone been chargeable with this want of discrimination and incapacity of observation. The plays of Farquhar and Congreve are not free: though, when his youth is considered, Congreve has exhibited an astonishing variety in his portraits, and had he written at a later period of life, would no doubt have enriched the drama with delineations as distinct as his powers of observation were acute and just. Ben Jonson, who was a man of vigorous intellect, with a strong relish for humour, has produced more nicely shaded and minutely distinguished portraitures than all our poets, except Shakespeare, who with a prodigality equal to that of Nature, which scatters the richest and most consummate beauties in caves and desarts, has thrown away all the distinctive features of character even on message-carriers, footmen, chamber-maids, and lords in waiting. We do not ask from our playwrights to display this liberal profusion which might beggar half the writers in the world; but we do entreat that they will take the pains to walk a little about the streets, pay a few visits, turn over the catalogue of their acquaintance, and try to observe and recollect other traits besides the dress they wear, the oaths they use, and the number of bottles they drink. Then we might have some more vivid discriminations than are presented by bucks running about and crying, "Keep* moving:" by sleepy personages† telling us that "they have an idea:" or by women‡ asking, "What will Mrs. Grundy say?".

It is with pleasure we recur to Mr. Kenney, who has shewn that he does not labour under this miserable poverty of observation. Besides one or two portraits in his comedy of the *World*, we have two new characters in the farce of *Raising the Wind*, and in the present little piece there is an able delineation of a *Cockney*, being, as far as we recollect, the first, and certainly the best description of that facetious animal on the stage.

It is a most amusing exhibition: the invulnerable self-complacency, the prim conceit arising not more from the contemplation of his own qualities, than from the circumstance of his being a citizen of no mean city, the unaccommodating selfishness, and the illiterate vulgarity of manner and of idiom which distinguish the native London shopman, render him one of the fittest subjects in the whole range of character, for the lash of comic satire. Mr. Kenney's picture is to the life; the phraseology at once dull and vivacious, with its pert *slang* and ungrammatical idiomacy is rendered with an accuracy which makes one half suspect that the author has more than a geographical knowledge of Tooley-street. The diction of a cockney is fairer game for ridicule than that of a rustic or provincialist. The most uncouth dialects have the authority of antiquity on their side, and are indeed remnants of separate languages now obsolete: but the dialect of a cockney is mere barbarous inaccuracy, and false pronunciation. His conceit however is his most attackable point: his admiration for the River Thames not from a patriotic feeling of its usefulness, but because it flows by his own residence at Wapping: his astonishment that any promenade out of London should be thought equal to the meanders of Crooked-lane: his proud contempt at hearing a country Magistrate, or a Lord Lieutenant of a county, put in competition with Mr. Bearskin, Deputy of his own Ward: all these and many others are circumstances to which the sharpest stings of ridicule ought to be applied. Many of them are depicted by Mr. Kenney with the liveliest spirit, and are rendered by Mr. Liston, with a force and truth which shew that he possesses the most intelligent relish for humour, and a power of expressing it, quite unequalled on the stage.

We have nothing to remark of the other actors, except that to Mr. Matthews is assigned a part of mimickry, which it is needless to say he performed in a style which allows no rival. We shall say a few words presently on the tendency of this astonishing faculty: but must conclude this part of our critique by expressing a hope that Mr. K. in the composition of the new Comedy which report assigns to him, will enrich our drama with a few more original characters. One new and ably delineated portrait is worth all the Comedies which Dibdin and Reynolds ever wrote.

The new farce of *At Home* is so mere a trifle, that we should not have thought it worth our notice had not our

* Cure for the Heart-Ache.
† The Dramatist.
‡ Speed the Plough.

attention been roused by a contemporary critic, in whose mind it has raised visions of FOOTE and HOGARTH, of HORACE and THEOPHRASTUS. Ever ready as we and all good critics are to distrust their first opinions, we resolved to devote a more careful consideration to the merits of this transporting piece, and the result has been such, that we are perfectly astonished at the associating power of the above-mentioned critic's mind, exceeding, as it does, all the fondest theories of HOBBES or HARTLEY. FOOTE, as all know, or ought to know, is one of the easiest and wittiest dramatic writers in our language: the new farce, as far as we recollect, does not contain one *bon-mot*; HORACE has the reputation of fine taste and a superior understanding—the most acute and tasteful remark in this admired dramatucle (if we may be allowed such a diminutive) is, "that our best enjoyments are *At Home*." People praise HOGARTH for the variety and humour, THEOPHRASTUS for the correctness and shrewdness of his portraitures: the only attempt at character in this new production is, in the first place, a dashing Captain, and therefore most appropriately called *Capt. Dash*, whose characteristics in imitation of HOGARTH and THEOPHRASTUS are, first, a great-coat with a fur collar; next, being in debt; lastly, giving a grand entertainment to superannuated Generals and Dowager Countesses, the usual lumber of a rout-party. Then there is a lady, whose character is most distinctly and prominently marked by her skill in shawl-dancing. Lastly, there is a Yorkshire servant, whose distinguishing trait (how like is this to the manner of THEOPHRASTUS) is, that he speaks the Yorkshire dialect. So much for the character:—now for the dialogue. The first Act consists of about half-a-dozen shrieks uttered against waltzing; two or three bad jokes on the same subject; and a conversation about eloping and love, which naturally concludes with a shawl-dance. The next Act contains about two hundred thundering raps at a door, about forty persons lounging about a room, a dull trio, a duller dance, and Mr. *Romeo Rantall*. The last exhibition compensated the defects of all the rest. Mr. MATTHEWS became a facsimile of the amateur *Lothario* His person was so similar, that *Calista* might have loved him without perjury, and his voice so identical, that we are convinced that if Mr. COATES had been near his antetype, and possesses no more discrimination than he usually evinces, he must have been puzzled almost to distraction to discover which was which, which the original and which the imitator. This power of mimickry, or rather of identification, which Mr. MATTHEWS possesses, is a talent scarcely more pleasing than it is dangerous. The discretion of this excellent actor will no doubt keep him from offence; but it is easy to conceive that such a faculty might be made an instrument of the most malicious cruelty. We have no sort of fear that Mr. MATTHEWS will so offend, but perhaps it will be no harm to him to recollect that FOOTE, with not half his power of imitation, stirred up enemies, who pursued him to wretchedness, and even death. No arrow cuts so deep, no venom rankles so sorely, as personal ridicule.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

The following is a translation of the Answer of the Princess of WALES to the Letter of the PRINCE, inserted in the last *Examiner*. The original was in French.—

"The avowal of your conversation with Lord Cholmondeley, neither surprises nor offends me. It merely confirmed what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelvemonth. But after this it would be a want of deliency, or rather an unworthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those conditions which you impose upon yourself.

"I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful whether this arrangement proceeds from you or from me; and you are aware that the honour of it belongs to yourself alone.

"The letter which you announce to me as the last obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my Sovereign and my Father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find inclosed the copy of my letter to the King. I apprise you of it, that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but his Majesty, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject; and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some degree, at least, consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart—I mean charity.

"It will be my duty likewise to act upon another motive—that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial.

"Do me the justice to believe that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be

"Your much devoted

"*6th of May*, 1796. "CAROLINE."

LETTER FROM THE PRINCESS TO THE KING.

This letter is too long for publication, nor is it necessary indeed, as it is little more than a Protest against the secret proceedings which, in 1806, were taking place against her. It is said to have been written by the late Mr. Perceval, in conjunction with Lord Eldon and Sir Thomas Plomer.—We give, however, the most important passages:—

"It was on the 7th of June, 1806, (says her Royal Highness) that the Duke of Kent announced to me, the Princess of Wales, the near approach of two Attornies (one of them, I since find, the Solicitor employed by Sir John Douglas), claiming to enter my dwelling with a warrant to take away one-half of my household, for immediate examination upon a charge against myself. Of the nature of that charge I was then uninformed. It now appears it was the charge of High Treason, committed in the infamous crime of adultery."

Her Royal Highness then appeals to the Duke of Kent, "and his Royal Highness (she says) will, I am sure, do me the justice to represent to your Majesty, that I betrayed no fear,—that I manifested no symptoms of conscious guilt,—that I sought no excuses to prepare or to tutor my servants, for the examination which they were to undergo. The only request which I made to his Royal Highness was, that he would have the goodness to remain with me till the servants were gone, that he might bear witness that I had no conversation with them before they went."

* * * * * * * * * * * *

What then, Sire, must have been my astonishment and my dismay, when I saw, that notwithstanding the principal accusation was found to be utterly false, yet some of the witnesses to those charges which were brought in support of the principal accusation,—witnesses whom any person interested to have protected my character would easily have shewn, out of their own mouths, to be utterly unworthy of credit, and confederates in joint conspiracy with my false accusers, are reported "to be free from all suspicion of unfavourable bias; their veracity, in the judgment of the Commissioners, not to be questioned;" and their infamous stories and insinuations against me "to be such as deserve the most serious consideration," and as such to be credited "till decisively contradicted."

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

"By referring to the within Declarations, it appears that they contain allegations against me, amounting to the charge of

high treason, and also other matters which, if understood to be, as they seem to have been acted and reported upon by the Commissioners, not as evidence confirmatory (as they are expressed to be in the title) of the principal charge, but as distinct and substantive subjects of examination, cannot, as I am advised, be represented as in law amounting to crimes—how most of the Declarations referred to were collected, by whom, at whose solicitation, under what sanction, and before what persons, magistrates, or others, they were made, does not appear. By the title, indeed, which all the within Declarations, except Sir John and Lady Douglas, bear, viz. "*That they had been taken for the purpose of confirming Lady Douglas's statement*," it may be collected, that they had been by her, or at least by Sir John's procurement; and the concluding passage of one of them, I mean the 4th declaration of William Cole, strengthens this opinion, as it represents Sir John Douglas, accompanied by his Solicitor, Mr. Lowten, to have gone down as far as Cheltenham, for the examination of two witnesses, whose declarations are there stated. I am, however, at a loss to know at this moment whom I am to consider, or whom I could fix upon, as my false accuser. From the circumstance last mentioned, it might be inferred that Sir John Douglas, or one of them, is the accuser. But Lady Douglas, in her within declaration, so far from representing the information which she then gives, as moving voluntarily from herself, *expressly states, that she gives it under the direct command of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales*, and the Papers leave me without information from whom any communication to the Prince originated, which induced him to give such commands."

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"If it be (concludes her Royal Highness) as I am given to understand it is, open to question, whether consistently with law, your Majesty should have been advised to command by this warrant or commission, persons not to act in any known character, as Secretaries of State, as Privy Counsellors, as Magistrates otherwise empowered, but to act as Commissioners, and under the sole authority of such warrants, to inquire without any authority, to hear and determine any thing upon the subject of those inquiries, into the known crime of high treason, under the sanction of oaths to be administered by them as such Commissioners, and to report the result thereof to your Majesty. If, I say, there can be any question upon the legality of such a warrant or commission, the extreme hardship with which it has operated upon me, the extreme prejudice which it has done to my character, and to which such a proceeding must ever expose the person who is the object of it, oblige me, till I am fully convinced of its legality, to forbear acknowledging its authority, and with all humility and deference to your Majesty, to protest against all the proceedings under it."

THE BOOK.

Extracts from the Evidence of Robert Bidgood, William Cole, Frances Lloyd, Mary Ann Wilson, Samuel Roberts, Thomas Hickman, John Sicard, Charlotte Sander, and Sir John and Lady Douglas, as given in the Book printed by Mr. Perceval, but suppressed.

Robert Bidgood had lived with the Prince 23 years, and with the Princess from 1798 till the time he was giving evidence (June 1806). In 1802 he first observed Sir Sidney Smith at Montague-house: he came to Sir John Douglas early in the morning, and staid till late: he once observed him in the blue room full two hours sooner than company was usually admitted: he might have got in by the park door without the servants seeing him.—In the beginning of 1804, or end of 1803, witness first saw Capt. Manby at the house. One day, when the Captain was going away, he stopped with the Princess a long time, while witness was waiting on the steps. Witness looked into the room, and in the reflection of the looking-glass saw them salute each other—he meant, that they kissed each other's lips. When Capt. M. went away, the Princess wiped her eyes as if she was crying. In May 1804, the Princess went to Southend, and witness went with her. When the African (Captain Manby's ship) arrived, Capt. Manby immediately went to the Princess's house, and dined with her and her ladies, and afterwards frequently visited her. The witness several times saw the Princess retire from the company with Capt. Manby from No. 7, through No 8, into No. 9, which was the house in which the Princess slept. Witness suspected that the Captain slept frequently in the house. It was talked about in the house, and others, he believed, suspected it also.

William Cole had lived with her Royal Highness ever since her marriage. He saw Sir Sidney Smith and the Princess sitting very close together on a sofa: they appeared confused. One night, about twelve o'clock, he saw a man go into the house from the park, wrapped up in a great coat. He said nothing, for he thought he was not a thief. Shortly after this, witness was sent to do the duty in town. About July, 1802, he observed the Princess had grown very thin, but he had not any idea of her having been pregnant. Mr. Lawrence, the artist, used to attend when he was painting. Witness had often seen him alone with the Princess between eleven and twelve at night: once as late as one or two in the morning: one night, when the ladies had gone, and when witness supposed Mr. Lawrence had also retired, he saw him with the Princess in the blue room: the witness afterwards found the room door locked, and heard a whispering there.

Frances Lloyd had lived twelve years with the Princess.—This witness remembered when the child and its mother came to the Princess's, and that when the mother parted with the child, she cried, but said she could not afford to keep it.—When at Ramsgate with the Princess in 1803, on the East Cliff, she was called up at six in the morning to make breakfast for her Royal Highness. Capt. Manby's ship was in the Downs. When she opened the shutters, she saw the Princess walking with a tall gentleman in the garden, which surprised witness. While at Blackheath, a washer-woman, named Charlton, told witness that some linen she had to wash from the Princess's house, was marked with the appearance of a miscarriage or delivery. If any of the women in the house had been pregnant, witness thinks she must have known it.

Mary Ann Wilson had lived 10 years with the Princess. Recollected the child being brought: it was about four months old: never suspected that her Royal Highness was with child; witness made the royal bed: but never had any reason to believe that two persons slept in it; and never saw any particular appearance in it.

Samuel Roberts, footman to her Royal Highness, swore that Sir Sidney Smith never staid with the Princess after eleven; never saw him dine with her. Mr. Cole asked witness whether there were any favourites in the family? He replied that Capt. Manby and Sir Sidney Smith used to dine at Blackheath oftener than any others.

Thos. Slikeman had been page to her Royal Highness ever since she came to England. He knew, as well as all the other servants, that her Royal Highness had a strong desire to obtain an infant. A woman with a child came to the door with a petition: this child was shewn to the Princess, and her Royal Highness kept it. Austin, the father of it, lives at Pimlico. Never supposed the Princess was with child; and from her shape, thinks it would be difficult to ascertain it. Sir Sidney Smith was a frequent visitor, and the Princess used to consult him about altering her room into the Turkish stile. Sir Sidney used to remain alone with her Royal Highness, who is of lively vivacity, that she makes herself familiar with gentlemen, and therefore witness was not struck when Sir Sidney staid late. Witness did not like Capt. Manby's coming so often and staying so late. Remembers that a silver lamp was sent to Capt. M. but never suspected any thing improper relating to him.

John Sicard, house-steward to her Royal Highness, had lived seven years in her service: thinks it hardly possible she should have been with child without his knowing it, as he saw her so frequently. Witness never saw any impurity in the Princess's conduct with any gentleman. Sir Sidney Smith was frequently alone with her Royal Highness, but so was Mr. Canning, and other gentlemen.

Charlotte Sander, a native of Brunswick, had lived with the Princess eleven years. Witness knew that the child, Austin, was brought an infant to the Princess. Her Royal Highness was ill, or indisposed, in the Autumn of 1802. Being her Royal Highness's dresser, witness was sure that she was never pregnant at Montague-House. Witness, till the day she was examined, never heard any thing about her Royal Highness's being pregnant; never had any reason to suppose that the Princess received Gentlemen at improper hours. Sir Sidney Smith used to stay very late, but witness never saw any thing improper. Capt. Manby also visited her Royal Highness, but witness never suspected that there was any thing improper in his conduct.—Witness never saw, in the behaviour of her Royal Highness, any thing wrong. Her Royal Highness drove out alone in a gig with Mr. Hood, at Catterington, but witness knew of nothing wrong. Witness has delivered sealed packets from the Princess to Sicard, to be forwarded to Capt. Manby.

Charlotte Douglas (Lady Douglas) said, that in May, 1802, the Princess first talked with witness about her own conduct. Witness understood that her Royal Highness knew Sir Sidney Smith before she was Princess of Wales. Never observed any impropriety of conduct between Sir Sidney and her Royal Highness. In May, or June, 1802, her Royal Highness came alone to witness's house; her Royal Highness desired witness to guess what had happened to her: the Princess said she was pregnant, and that the child had come to life—that the milk had flowed to her breast while at Lady Willoughby's, when she retired, and adjusted herself. The Princess hoped the child was a boy—did not say who was the father of it, but observed, that, if it was discovered, she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of being the father, for she had slept two nights at Carlton House during the year. Witness said, she should go abroad to her mother. The Princess said, she should manage it very well, and, if things came to the worst, she should give the Prince the credit of it. One day, when the witness was pregnant, she was taken ill: the Princess desired Mrs. Saunders to give witness a saline draught, and her Royal Highness said, she was very sick herself, and would also take one. Witness remarked, that she did not want one. The Princess said, "Yes, I do. What do you look at me for with your wicked eyes? you are always finding me out."—Mrs. Saunders looked much distressed, and gave the draughts to both. Witness suspected that Sir Sidney Smith was the father of the child, because the Princess was very partial to him. Never knew, however, that he was alone with her. Princess frequently spoke to witness on the subject of her own pregnancy: she was bled twice, and told witness to do so. Witness told the Princess she was very anxious how she would manage to be brought to bed without its being known, and hoped she had a safe person. The Princess said, yes; she should have a person from abroad, as she had great horror of having men about her on such occasion, but wished witness not to speak again to her on the subject, as she was confident in her own plans. The Princess said, she should trust every thing to Saunders, who was a very good woman; she should send Miss Gatth to Brunswick, and Miss Mitfield out of the way. When witness was confined, the Princess, against her will, insisted on being present. Witness had the door locked, but the Princess came in at another door, was present during the delivery, took the child when born, and said she was glad she had seen the whole of it. Dr. Mackie attended witness.—the Princess's pregnancy was very visible: she wore a cushion behind, and had one made for witness. One day her Royal Highness observed to witness, that she would hear of her having children brought in baskets to her: "I shall do it (she said) as a cover to have my own brought in that way." Very soon after, two children, twins, were brought to her Royal Highness, who took and washed them herself, as the Princess told witness. Her Royal Highness afterwards said, "You see I took the children and it answered very well. The father had got them back, and she could not blame him: that she would take other children, and have quite a nursery." On a Sunday, either on the 30th or 31st of October, 1802, witness saw the Princess: she was dressed so as to conceal her pregnancy in a long cloak: she had been to Greenwich church, looked very ill, and witness thought her very near her time.—The Princess desired witness not to come to see her when she was brought to bed, as she might be confused. In January, witness went to Montague-house. The Princess took her to a sofa, where a child was lying covered with a piece of red cloth. Her Royal Highness said, "There is the child: I had him only two days after I saw you." She said she got very well through it; and showed witness a pink mark on the child's hand. It was the same child she afterwards saw with her Royal Highness, and it used to call the Princess "Mamma." The child was called William. The Princess said to Sir John Douglas one day, "This is the Deptford boy."—Witness would swear that her Royal Highness was pregnant in 1802. In October, Mr. Vernon sent witness a note, desiring her not to go any more to Montague-house. At this time witness had never mentioned her Royal Highness's pregnancy to any one, not even to Sir J. Douglas. Witness wrote to Mrs. Fitzgerald, complaining of ill usage. Two or three days witness received an anonymous note, marked it. The Princess said to witness, that she got a bed-fellow whenever she could, ********.

[*Here Lady Douglas gave some evidence, as to conversation, too gross for our columns.*]

Sir John Douglas said, that he had a house at Blackheath, where he thought the Princess came more to see Sir Sidney Smith than them. She appeared to him to be pregnant. One day, her Royal Highness put her hand upon her stomach, and said, "Sir John, I shall never be Queen of England."—Sir John replied, "Not if you don't deserve it," at which she was angry at first. He received two anonymous letters, marked B and C, which he produced.

IMPUTED INDISCRETIONS OF THE PRINCESS.

The report of the Whig and Grenville Privy Council, stated that,

"Besides the allegation of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess, those declarations, on the whole of which your Majesty has been pleased to command us to enquire and report, contain, as we have already remarked, other particulars respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to *very unfavourable interpretations*. From the various depositions and proofs annexed to this Report, particularly from the examinations of *Robert Bidgood*, *William Cole*, *Frances Lloyd*, and Mrs. *Lisle*, your Majesty will perceive that several strong circumstances of this description have been positively sworn to by witnesses, who cannot, in our judgment, be suspected of any unfavourable bias, and whose veracity in this respect we have seen no ground to question. But we conceive it to be our duty to report on this part of the Inquiry, as distinctly as on the former facts, that as on the one hand the facts of pregnancy and delivery are to our minds satisfactorily disproved: so on the other hand we think, that the circumstances to which we now refer, *particularly those stated to have passed between her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited, until they shall receive some decisive contradiction*: and, if true, are justly entitled to the most serious consideration."

The "decisive contradiction" required was shortly afterwards given, in the following affidavit of Capt. Manby;—

"I do solemnly, and upon my oath declare, that the said passage (in *Bidgood's* evidence) is a vile and wicked invention; that it is wholly and absolutely false;—that it is impossible he ever could have seen (what he swore he saw) any such thing; as I never, upon any occasion, or in any situation, had the presumption to take that liberty, or to offer any such liberty to her Royal Highness's person."

MESSAGE FROM THE KING TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

"The King having referred to his Confidential Servants the proceedings and papers relating to the written Declarations which had been laid before his Majesty, respecting the conduct of the Princess of Wales, has been apprized by them, that af-

ter the fullest consideration of the examinations taken on that subject, and of the observations and affidavits brought forward by the Princess's Legal Advisers, they agree in the opinions submitted to his Majesty in the original Report of the four Lords by whom his Majesty directed that the matter should, in the first instance, be inquired into; and that in the present stage of the business, upon a mature and deliberate view of this most important subject, in all its parts and bearings, it is their opinion, that the facts of this case do not warrant their advising that any further step should be taken in the business by his Majesty's Government, or any other proceedings instituted upon it, except such only, as his Majesty's Law Servants may, on a reference to them, think fit to recommend *for the prosecution of Lady Douglas*, on those parts of her deposition which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto.

"In this situation, his Majesty is advised that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the Princess into his Royal presence.

"The King sees with great satisfaction the agreement of his Confidential Servants, in the decided opinion expressed by the four Law Lords upon the falsehood of the accusations of pregnancy and delivery brought forward against the Princess by Lady Douglas. On the other matters produced in the course of the inquiry, the King is advised, that none of the acts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, are to be considered as legally or conclusively established. But in those examinations, and even in the answer drawn in the name of the Princess by her legal advisers, there have appeared *circumstances of conduct on the part of the Princess*, which his Majesty could never regard but with serious concern. The elevated rank which the Princess holds in this country, and the relation in which she stands to his Majesty and the Royal Family, must always deeply involve both the interests of the State, and the personal feelings of his Majesty, in the *propriety* and *correctness* of her conduct; and his Majesty, therefore, cannot forbear to express, in the conclusion of the business, his desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future be observed by the Princess, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard which his Majesty always wishes to shew to every part of the Royal Family.

"His Majesty has directed that this Message should be transmitted to the Princess of Wales by his Lord Chancellor; and that copies of the Proceedings which have taken place on this subject, should also be communicated to his dearly-beloved Son, the Prince of Wales."

[The same Message was recommended on the 25th of Jan. 1807, by the following persons, (the Whig and Grenville Administration):—The Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Earl Spencer, Earl of Moira, Lord Henry Petty, Lord Viscount Howick, Lord Grenville, Lord Ellenborough, Mr. Secretary Windham, Mr. T. Grenville.]

MINUTE OF COUNCIL, APRIL 22, 1807.

PRESENT,

The Lord Chancellor (Eldon); the Lord President (Camden); the Lord Privy Seal (Westmoreland); the Duke of Portland, the Earl of Chatham, the Earl of Bathurst, Viscount Castlereagh, Lord Mulgrave, Mr. Secretary Canning, Lord Hawkesbury.

"Your Majesty's confidential Servants have, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, most attentively considered the original Charges and Report, the Minutes of Evidence, and all the other papers submitted to the consideration of your Majesty, on the subject of those charges against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

"In the stage in which this business is brought under their consideration they do not feel themselves called upon to give any opinion as to the proceeding itself, or to the mode of investigation in which it has been thought proper to conduct it. But adverting to the advice which is stated by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to have directed his conduct, your Majesty's confidential Servants are anxious to impress upon your Majesty their conviction, that his Royal Highness could not, under such advice, consistently with his public duty, have done otherwise than lay before your Majesty the Statement and Examinations which were submitted to him upon this subject.

"After the most deliberate consideration, however, of the evidence which has been brought before the Commissioners, and of the previous examinations, as well as of the answer and observations which have been submitted to your Majesty upon them, they feel it necessary to declare their decided concurrence in the clear and unanimous opinion of the Commissioners, confirmed by that of all your Majesty's late confidential Servants, that THE TWO MAIN CHARGES alleged against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of pregnancy and delivery, ARE COMPLETELY DISPROVED; and they further submit to your Majesty their unanimous opinion, that ALL THE OTHER PARTICULARS OF CONDUCT brought in accusation against her Royal Highness, to which the character of criminality can be ascribed, *are either satisfactorily contradicted or rest upon evidence* of such a nature, and which was given under such circumstances, as render it, in the judgment of your Majesty's confidential Servants, UNDESERVING OF CREDIT.

"Your Majesty's confidential Servants, therefore, concurring in that part of the opinion of your late Servants, as stated in their Minute of the 25th January, that there is no longer any necessity for your Majesty being advised to decline receiving the Princess into your Royal presence, humbly submit to your Majesty, that it is essentially necessary, *in justice to her Royal Highness, and for the honour and interests of your Majesty's Illustrious Family*, that her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, *should be admitted, with as little delay as possible, into your Majesty's Royal Presence, and that she should be received in a manner due to her rank and station, in your Majesty's Court and Family.*

"Your Majesty's confidential Servants likewise beg leave to submit to your Majesty, that considering that it may be necessary that your Majesty's Government should possess the means of referring to the true state of this transaction, it is of the utmost importance that these documents, demonstrating the ground on which your Majesty has proceeded, should be preserved in safe custody; and that for that purpose the originals, or authentic copies of all these papers, should be sealed up and deposited in the Office of your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State."

MR. C. JOHNSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON FRIDAY WEEK IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"1st. Resolved, That from disputes touching the Succession to the Throne, bitter public animosities, tumultuous contentions, long and bloody civil wars have, at various periods of the history of this kingdom, arisen, causing great misery to the good people thereof, grief and affliction to the Royal Family, and in some cases exclusion of the rightful heir.

"That, therefore, loyalty and affection towards the Sovereign, and a just regard to the happiness of the People, call upon every subject of this Realm, and upon this House more especially, to neglect nothing within their power to prevent the recurrence of similar calamities from a similar cause.

"That it has been stated to this House, by a Member thereof, who has offered to prove the same by witnesses at the Bar of this House, that, in the year 1806, a Commission was signed under his Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, authorising and directing the then Lord Chancellor Erskine, Earl Spencer, the then Secretary of State for the Home Department, Lord Grenville, the then First Lord of the Treasury, and the then and present Lord Chief Justice, Ellenborough, to inquire into the truths of certain written declarations, communicated to his Majesty by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, touching the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

"That the said Commissioners, in pursuance of the said authority and direction, did enter into an examination of several witnesses, and that they delivered to his Majesty a Report of such examination, and also of their judgment on the several parts alleged against her Royal Highness; which Report,

signed by the four Commissioners aforesaid, and dated on the 14th of July, 1806, was accompanied with copies of the declarations, examinations, depositions, and other documents on which it was founded.

"That it has been stated to this House, in manner aforesaid, that the said written accusations against her Royal Highness expressly asserted, 'That her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse, and that she had in the same year been secretly delivered of a male child, which child had ever since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

"That the Report farther stated, that the Commissioners 'first examined on oath the principal informants, Sir John Douglas, and Charlotte, his wife, who both particularly swore, the former to his having observed the fact of the pregnancy of her Royal Highness, and the other to all the important particulars contained in former declaration, and before referred to,' and that Report added, 'that the examinations are annexed to the Report, and are circumstantial and positive.'

"That the Commissioners, after the above statements, proceeded in their said Report to state to his Majesty that they thought it their duty to examine other witnesses as to the facts in question, and that they stated, as the result of such farther examination, 'their perfect conviction that there is no foundation whatever for believing that the child now with the Princess is the child of her Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in 1802, or that she was pregnant in that year,' and that the Commissioners added 'That this was their clear and unanimous judgment, formed upon full deliberation and pronounced without hesitation, on the result of the whole inquiry.'

"That the Noble Lords composing the Commission aforesaid had not, and could not, in that capacity, have any legal power to pronounce a judgment or decision in the case; that the matter of charge submitted to them as a subject of inquiry amounted to a charge of high treason, a crime known to the laws, and therefore liable only in a known Court of Justice; that if, as Justices of the Peace, (a character belonging to them as Privy Councillors,) they were competent to receive informations and take examinations regarding the conduct of her Royal Highness, they had no legal power in that capacity, nor in any other capacity that could be given to them, to pronounce an acquittal or a condemnation upon the charge referred to them; for that, to admit them to have been competent to acquit, is to admit them competent to have found guilty, and this would be to admit their competence to have sent her Royal Highness to an ignominious death, in virtue of a decision founded on selected *ex parte* evidence taken before a secret tribunal.

"That the whole report, as it relates to the judgment of the Commissioners, (if the making of it be not an unlawful act) is at least of no legal validity, and, in the eye of the law, leaves the question of the guilt or innocence of her Royal Highness where the Commissioners first found it; that the depositions and examinations upon oath (supposing the Commissioners to have taken them in their capacity of Justices of the Peace) possess a legal character; but that no legal decision has yet been made upon any of the important facts stated in these depositions and examinations, and that it has not yet been legally decided that the fact positively sworn to, of her Royal Highness having been delivered of a male child in the year 1802, is not true.

"That in any claim to the succession to the Throne, which, by possibility, at least, may hereafter be set up, by any aspiring personage possessed of great power, the circumstantial and positive evidence of Sir John Douglas, and of Charlotte, his wife, if again called for, would still retain all its legal character and weight, while it might happen, that the evidence on the other side might, from death or other causes, be found deficient; and that there can be no doubt that it should hereafter be made to appear, that the facts sworn to by Lady Douglas are true, and if the identity of the male child so born should be proved, he would be the legal heir to the Throne, notwithstanding any assertions, or any proofs, relating to the alleged illicit intercourse of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

"That therefore the honour of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the sacred right of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, the safety of the Throne, and the tranquillity of the Country, do all unite, in most imperious call on this House, to institute now, while the witnesses on both sides are still living, and while all the charges are capable of being clearly established or clearly disproved, an ample and impartial investigation of all the allegations, facts, and circumstances appertaining to this most important subject of inquiry.

"2d. Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, requesting that his Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to order that a copy of a Report, made to his Majesty on the 14th day of July, 1806, by the then Lord Chancellor Erskine, Earl Spencer, Lord Grenville, and Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough, touching the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, be laid before the House, together with the Copies of the following written documents annexed to the said Report, namely,

"The Narrative of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, dated the 27th of December, 1805, (and thirty-eight others which the Hon. Mover named)."

"NARRATIVE OF FACTS.——The indisposition of the Princess Charlotte commenced previous to the fete at Carlton-House, and afterwards increasing, her Royal Highness was necessarily obliged to defer her return to Windsor. In consequence of this, the Princess of Wales, on the 8th February, addressed herself to Lord Liverpool, desiring that he would communicate to the Prince Regent her Royal Highness's intention to visit the Princess Charlotte, at Warwick-house, not anticipating the possibility of a prevention on the part of the Prince Regent, under the circumstance of the Princess Charlotte's confinement from illness. Lord Liverpool replied, that he was happy to announce the Princess Charlotte so much better, that her Royal Highness would be able to visit the Princess of Wales at Kensington Palace on the following Thursday, 11th February. On that morning she received information that the Princess Charlotte was refused coming.——Upon this, the Princess of Wales again addressed Lord Liverpool to know the reason, none having been assigned, for the Princess Charlotte's being thus suddenly prohibited from giving the meeting to her Royal Mother, and when and how soon her Royal Highness might expect to see the Princess Charlotte. To this inquiry the Princess of Wales received the following reply from Lord Liverpool;—

"*Fife-House, Feb.* 14, 1813.

"Lord Liverpool has the honour to inform your Royal Highness, that in consequence of the publication in *The Morning Chronicle* of the 10th inst. of a letter addressed by your Royal Highness to the Prince Regent, his Royal Highness thought fit, *by the advice of his confidential Servants*, to signify his commands that the intended visit of the Princess Charlotte to your Royal Highness on the following day should not take place.—Lord Liverpool is not enabled to make any further communication to your Royal Highness on the subject of your Royal Highness's note."

To this letter the Princess of Wales commanded Lady Anne Hamilton, her Lady in Waiting, to reply as follows to Lord Liverpool;—

"*Montague-house, Blackheath, Feb.* 15, 1813.

"Lady Anne Hamilton is commanded by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to represent to Lord Liverpool, that the insidious insinuation, respecting the publication of the letter addressed by the Princess of Wales, on the 14th of January, to the Prince Regent, conveyed in his Lordship's reply to her Royal Highness, is as void of foundation, and as false as all the former accusations of the traducers of her Royal Highness's honour in the year 1806.—Lady A. Hamilton is further commanded to say, that dignified silence would have been the line of conduct the Princess would have preserved upon such insinuation (more than unbecoming Lord Liverpool), did not the effect arising from it operate to deprive her Royal Highness of the sole real happiness she can possess in this world—that of seeing her only child. And the Confidential Servants of the Prince

Regent ought to feel ashamed of their conduct towards the Princess in avowing to her Royal Highness their advice to the Prince Regent, that upon *unauthorized* and unfounded suppositions a Mother and Daughter should be prevented from meeting—a prohibition positively against the law of nature and the law of the land. Lady Anne Hamilton is commanded further to desire Lord Liverpool to lay this paper before the Prince Regent, that his Royal Highness may be aware into what error his Confidential Servants are leading him, and will involve him, by counselling and signifying such commands."

BILLY FAWCETT.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE TAUNTON COURIER.

"The statement in the various papers concerning the parentage of Billy Fawcett being so deficient and incorrect, I have sent you the following, which you may rely upon as correct.—The child was never known to its relations or its parents to go by the name of Fawcett, but by *William*, or *Billy Austin*; and it is apprehended that the name of *Fawcett* has been given him by the designing enemies of her Royal Highness, to forward their scandalous and most malicious purposes.—Samuel Austin, the Father of the child, is a native of Wellington, in the county of Somerset, where he has now many relations of the same name, and was brought up to the woollen trade in that town. His residence at Deptford was occasioned by his having an uncle there (Mr. Job Woodford) holding a respectable situation in the Dock Yard. The Princess benevolently took the child when it was very young. The father, Samuel Austin, with Sophia, his wife, and family, now live on Tower Hill, and he is employed in the new West India Docks. The little boy has an uncle, Wm. Austin, living at Pimlico. A. I."

"*Wellington, March* 1, 1813."

[The very ample vindication of the Princess of Wales's innocence, (observes the exellent Editor of the *Taunton Courier*) which has been recently afforded by Parliament, renders the above statement almost superfluous. But as so much infamous contrivance has been resorted to on the occasion, no circumstances, however minute, ought to be omitted, which may, in the remotest degree, tend to throw a light on the base conspiracy by which the honour, and even life, of a most amiable Princess have been attempted to be taken away.—Our correspondent, A. I. has obligingly favoured us with his confidence, and should any additional facts, relating to the child, be at any time desirable, he is able and willing to furnish us with them in the most ample and circumstantial manner.]

LAW.

In the Court of King's Bench, on Saturday week, a cause was tried, in which one *Beaurain*, an attorney, was plaintiff, and Sir William Scott, was defendant.—Sir William, as Judge of the Consistorial Court, Doctors' Commons, had excommunicated the plaintiff without having cited him, because he had refused to become a guardian for his son, in a dispute between the son and his wife. Beaurain, it seems, lost his business, and was thrown into prison, in consequence of this excommunication, and having made known his intention of bringing an action against Sir William, the latter sent him 150*l.*, and promised to use his interest for him. *Beaurain*, however, wanted the situation of Admiralty Marshal, and being disappointed, brought his action.—In his charge to the Jury, Lord ELLENBOROUGH said, that the giving money to the plaintiff was an infirmity in a *great man*, whose character was about to be questioned, and who did not wish to have his conduct drawn into question, and his name bandied about in all the papers. It was an infirmity in one of the most learned men of his time, and would act as a warning to take fair and firm ground, and arm himself as a man to receive any charges that might be made against his character."—As to the question whether the excommunication was regularly issued, his Lordship observed, that it did not appear to him that any rule of law was repugnant to the practice as given in evidence.—The Jury, however, gave a verdict for plaintiff—damages 40*s.* but assured his Lordship that they did not mean by their verdict "to attach the slightest impeachment on the most respectable character of Sir Wm. Scott."

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

Mr. Fuller, a Gentleman of fortune in St. James's-street, appeared; by virtue of a summons, calling on him for payment of Fire Engines; which he refused, on the ground that the chimney was not on fire, but that some soot only had caught in the flue of the chimney, at the top of the jack. The Magistrate held, that it was necessary that fire should emit from the top of the chimney, or in other words, that it should be absolutely on fire, which was not the case in this instance, and the summons was discharged.

BIRTHS.

On Sunday evening, the wife of J. Crown, a poor journeyman shoemaker, No. 16, Colchester-street, Whitechapel, was safely delivered of four boys, named the same evening Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John, by the Rev. D. Mathias, rector of the parish—they are said to be likely to live.

MARRIAGES.

On Monday morning, at St. George's Church, Hanover-square, Lord Gage, to Miss Foley.

The daughter of a laundress in the neighbourhood of Paddington, in very humble circumstances, seventeen years of age, was led to the hymeneal altar last week by a gentleman of fortune, whose title has transformed the fair one, who a fortnight ago was wheeling a barrow of linen, into her *ladyship*.

Last week, at Liverpool, Mr. James Clay, to Miss Susan King:—

"What surety in the world, what hope, what stay,
"When what but now was King is now but Clay."

On Thursday week, at St. Andrew's, Holborn, Mr. R. Davies, of Lamb's Conduit-street, to Miss H. Rawlins, of Broad-street, Golden-square.

DEATHS.

On the 7th instant, Maria Oake Smart, daughter of Mr. C. Smart, of Prince's square, Kennington.

On the 5th inst. at Malling, near Lewes, the Right Hon. Anne, Countess Dowager of Chichester, in the 79th year of her age. She appeared remarkably cheerful the day before, and at night went to bed seemingly well. She rang her bell at six in the morning for her maid, complained she was uncomfortable, and expired without a groan or a struggle.

On the 30th of January, in his 86th year, C. de Narbonne Pellet de Salgas, near Rolle, in Switzerland, whither he retired after the *completition* of the *education* of the Prince Regent and the Duke of York, to whom he was private Tutor.

On the 3d inst. at Forest-house, Essex, William Bosanquet, Esq.

On the 6th inst. in the 87th year of his age, in the Temple, Francis Newton, Esq.

On Saturday week, in Chapel-street, Bedford-row, Wm. Dobson, Esq. aged 63. In consequence of an asthmatic complaint, he had not lain in bed for the last sixteen years.

At Gilmerton, in East Lothian, on the 22d of February, Sir Alexander Kinloch, of Gilmerton, Baronet.

On the 19th of January, at Malta, of a rapid consumption, Mr. Henry Thomas Hamilton, aged 19, youngest son of the late Wm. Hamilton, Esq. R. A.—"His affectionate disposition and fine understanding (says a Correspondent), gave every promise of future excellence—his gentle manners rendered him universally beloved—and by those who were acquainted with his many and rare virtues, his death will ever be most deeply lamented.

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